THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER
PART 1 OF 4
ISSUE 63
SEGA
Archie COMICS
SONIC UNIVERSE™
BRAND NEW STORY ARC!
Tracy Yardley
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles and the Chaotix join the efforts to save the shattered world!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

THE CHAOTIC HUNT IS ON!

Recently, Super Sonic and Dr. Eggman fought over the very fate of reality. While the universe was restored, it came at a high price – Sonic's world shattered into pieces! Now the race is on to find the seven Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Temples, as the two combined are the only way to fix the planet.

While Sonic and the Freedom Fighters work to put the planet back together, the other heroes of the world cope with the crisis in their own way!

For countless years, Angel Island has flown high above the world, largely removed from its problems. Only a select few know of its existence, and even fewer still have set foot on the flying continent.

With the world broken, how safely can Angel Island fly in a sky full of floating continents?

Knuckles, the island guardian,

is about to find out...

WHO'S WHO

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
THE LAST ECHIDNA

RELIC THE PIKA
ARCHAEOLOGIST

TEAM CHAOTIX
(VECTOR, ESPIO, CHARMY)
FREELANCE DETECTIVES

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SHATTERED WORLD CRISIS --ZERO HOUR*

RRRUMBLE

KNUCKLES the ECHIDNA LAST GUARDIAN OF THE MASTER EMERALD

*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE STH 253-256 FOR THE FULL SCOOP ON THE SHATTERED WORLD CRISIS!

THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER

PART ONE: ON THE HUNT

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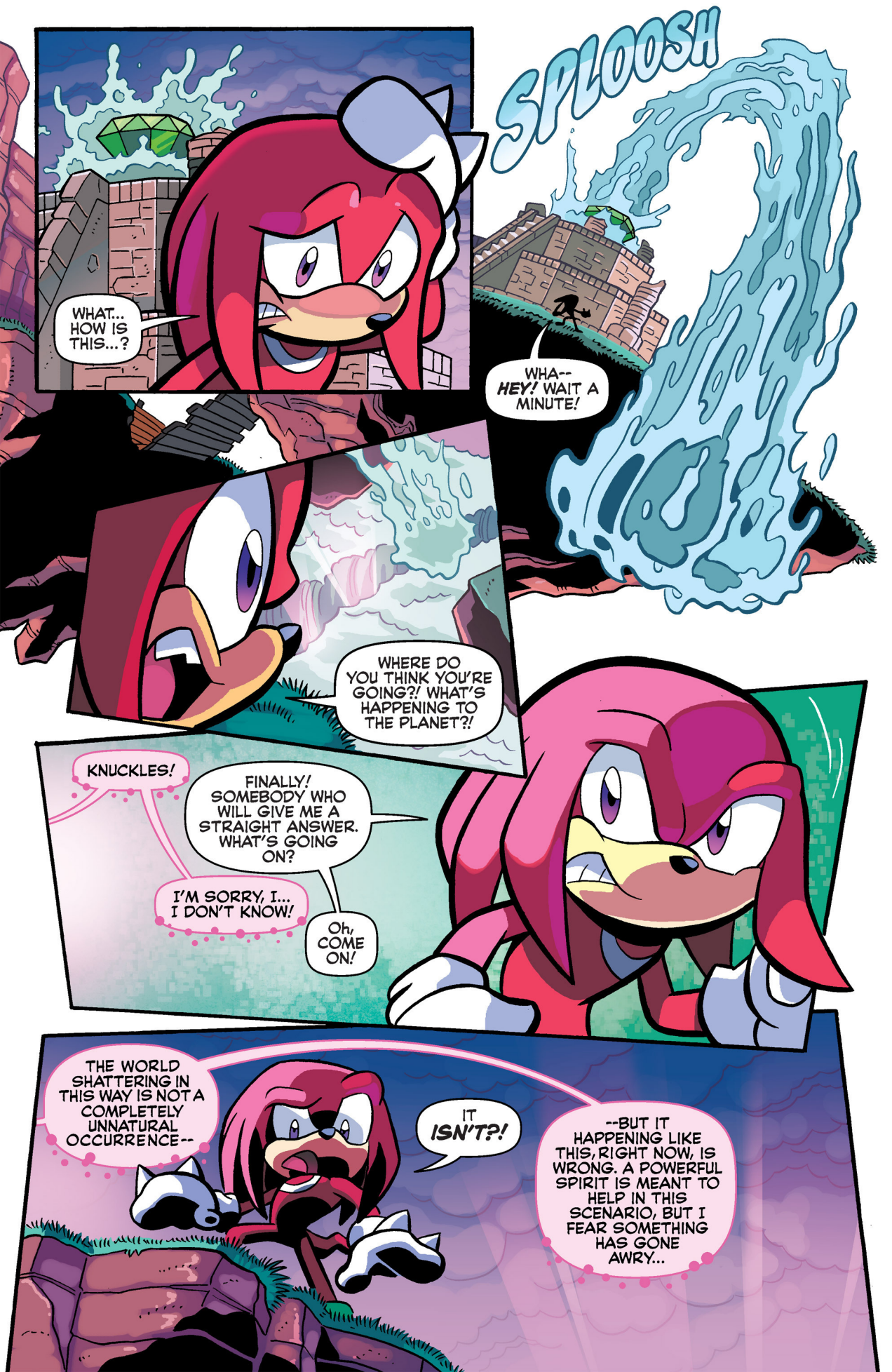
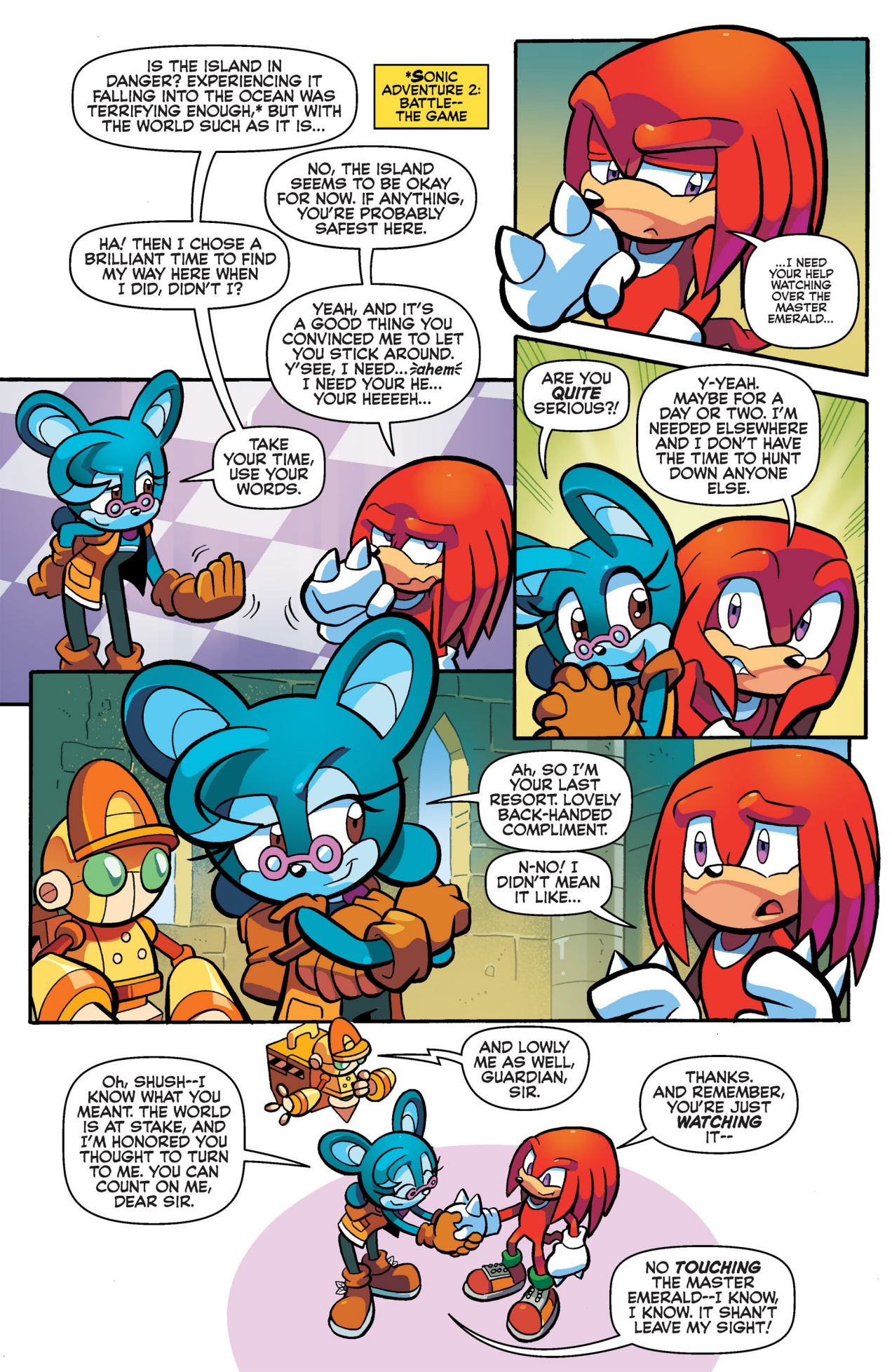

WHAT... HOW IS THIS...?
SPLOOSH
WHA-- HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE PLANET?!
KNUCKLES!
FINALLY! SOMEBODY WHO WILL GIVE ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER. WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M SORRY, I... I DON'T KNOW!
Oh, COME ON!
THE WORLD SHATTERING IN THIS WAY IS NOT A COMPLETELY UNNATURAL OCCURRENCE--
IT ISN'T?!
--BUT IT HAPPENING LIKE THIS, RIGHT NOW, IS WRONG. A POWERFUL SPIRIT IS MEANT TO HELP IN THIS SCENARIO, BUT I FEAR SOMETHING HAS GONE AWRY...

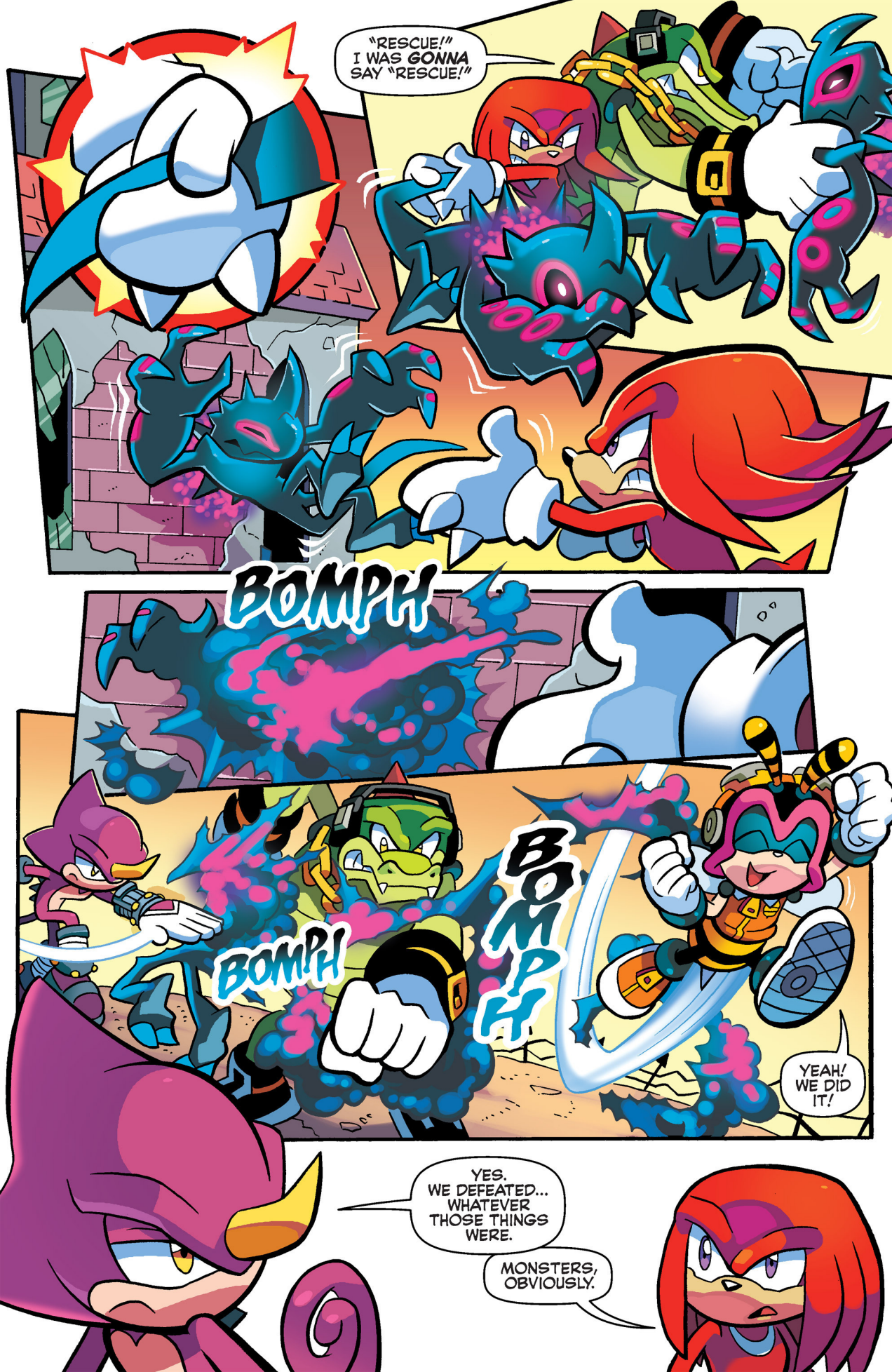
"I BELIEVE THE SPIRIT HAS MANIFESTED, BUT HIS PRESENCE IS...WEAK. IN HIS CURRENT STATE, HE MAY BE UNABLE TO HELP."
"THEN I'LL HEAD DOWN TO WHAT'S LEFT OF THE SURFACE. I'LL FIND THIS SPIRIT, AND THEN YOU TWO DO YOUR WORLD-SAVING THING...
...BUT I'LL NEED SOMEONE WATCHING THE MASTER EMERALD WHILE I'M GONE..."
LAUNCH BASE ZONE, ANGEL ISLAND
HELLO? CAN ANY-ONE...? Oh, DASH IT ALL!
MADAM RELIC! GUARDIAN KNUCKLES IS PRESENT!
I TOLD YOU TO KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE FORMAL-ITIES, FIXIT, WHAT'S WRONG, RELIC?
FIXIT ANCIENT ROBOT HELPER
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S WRONG?! THE PLANET'S GONE TO PIECES AND I CAN'T CONTACT ANYONE ON THE SURFACE THROUGH THIS BLASTED USELESS-AND-YET-STILL-FRUSTRATINGLY-INTRIGUING ANCIENT INTERFACE!
RELIC the PIKA ADVENTURING ARCHAEOLOGIST
I MEAN, I WAS ALREADY ATTEMPTING TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY ANCIENT DATA LOGS THAT MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT ON FIXIT HERE. BUT IT SEEMS EGGMAN OVERWROTE MOST OF THE DATA WHEN WE LANDED, FIXIT DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT, AND I'M GHASTLY AT COMPUTERS...
...SO I'M STANDING HERE LOOKING LIKE AN ABSOLUTE FOOL, UNABLE TO SEE IF ANYONE IS... IS...
I'M BABBLING AGAIN, AREN'T I?
A LITTLE. BUT IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE. THINGS ARE A LITTLE CRAZY.
"A LITTLE CRAZY" HE SAYS...

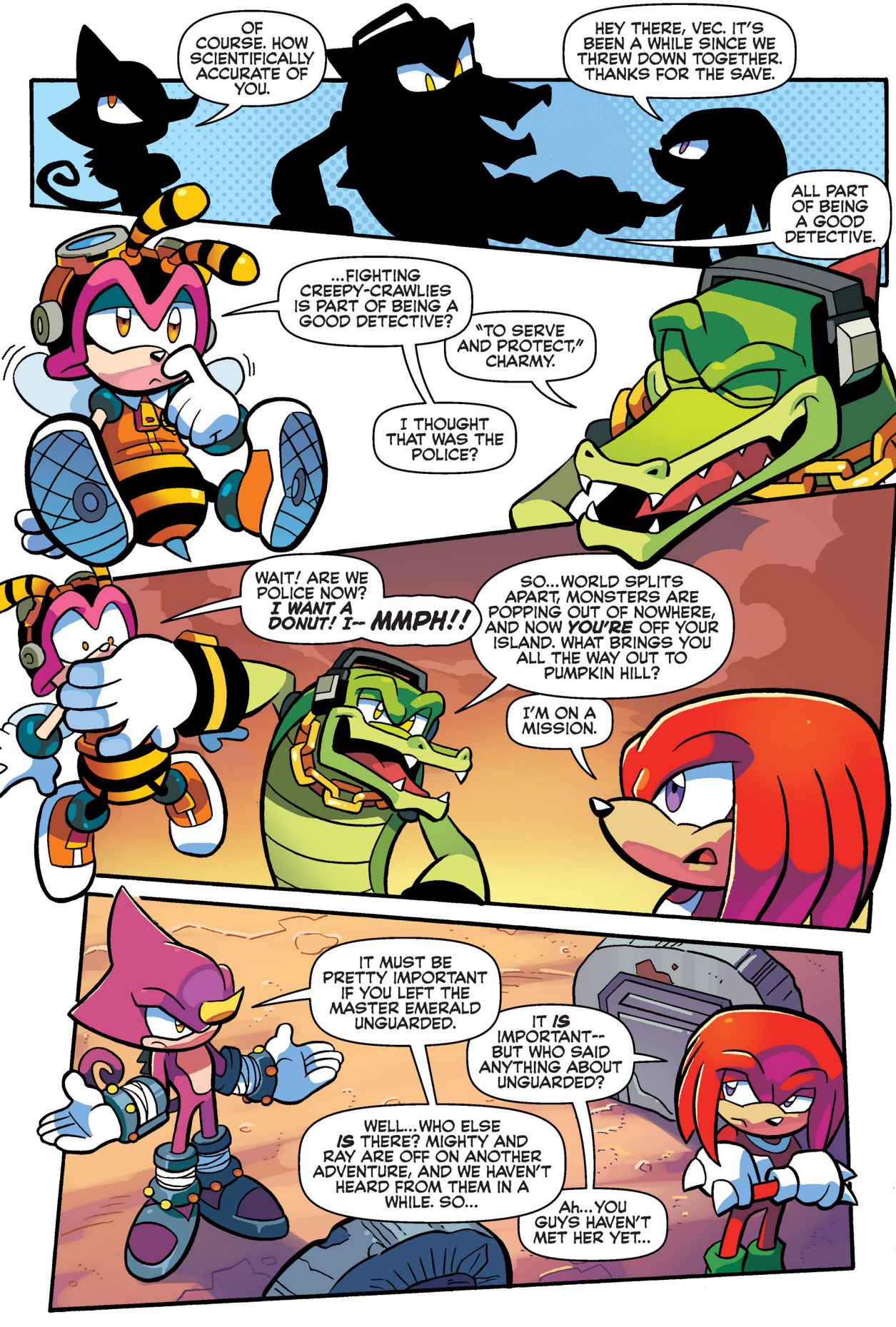

IS THE ISLAND IN DANGER? EXPERIENCING IT FALLING INTO THE OCEAN WAS TERRIFYING ENOUGH,* BUT WITH THE WORLD SUCH AS IT IS...
*SONIC ADVENTURE 2: BATTLE-- THE GAME
NO, THE ISLAND SEEMS TO BE OKAY FOR NOW. IF ANYTHING, YOU'RE PROBABLY SAFEST HERE.
HA! THEN I CHOSE A BRILLIANT TIME TO FIND MY WAY HERE WHEN I DID, DIDN'T I?
YEAH, AND IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CONVINCED ME TO LET YOU STICK AROUND. Y'SEE, I NEED...*ahem* I NEED YOUR HE... YOUR HEEEEH...
TAKE YOUR TIME, USE YOUR WORDS.
...I NEED YOUR HELP WATCHING OVER THE MASTER EMERALD...
ARE YOU *QUITE* SERIOUS?!
Y-YEAH. MAYBE FOR A DAY OR TWO. I'M NEEDED ELSEWHERE AND I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO HUNT DOWN ANYONE ELSE.
Ah, SO I'M YOUR LAST RESORT. LOVELY BACK-HANDED COMPLIMENT.
N-NO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE...
AND LOWLY ME AS WELL, GUARDIAN, SIR.
Oh, SHUSH--I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT. THE WORLD IS AT STAKE, AND I'M HONORED YOU THOUGHT TO TURN TO ME. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, DEAR SIR.
THANKS. AND REMEMBER, YOU'RE JUST *WATCHING* IT--
NO *TOUCHING* THE MASTER EMERALD--I KNOW, I KNOW. IT SHAN'T LEAVE MY SIGHT!

PUMPKIN HILL ZONE--
DAYS LATER
I HOPE THINGS ARE QUIET ON THE ISLAND. I HATE BEING GONE SO LONG...
YOU'D THINK FINDING A SPIRIT TIED TO THE WORLD'S HEALTH WOULD BE EASY. EVEN IF HE IS WEAKENED, JUST HOW "WEAK" CAN SOMETHING LIKE THAT BE?
MY SPECIALTY IS FINDING TREASURE, NOT SPIRITS. BUT THEN AGAIN, GIVEN ALL THE SUPERNATURAL STUFF I'VE DEALT WITH, I GUESS I AM PRETTY QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB.
THIS DUTY WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME. THE WORLD NEEDS TO BE RESTORED. SO I'D BETTER GET TO FINDING THAT SPIRIT, AND NOT GET SIDE-TRACKED...
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

SNARL!
SO
RAUR!
ROOAAARRRR!!

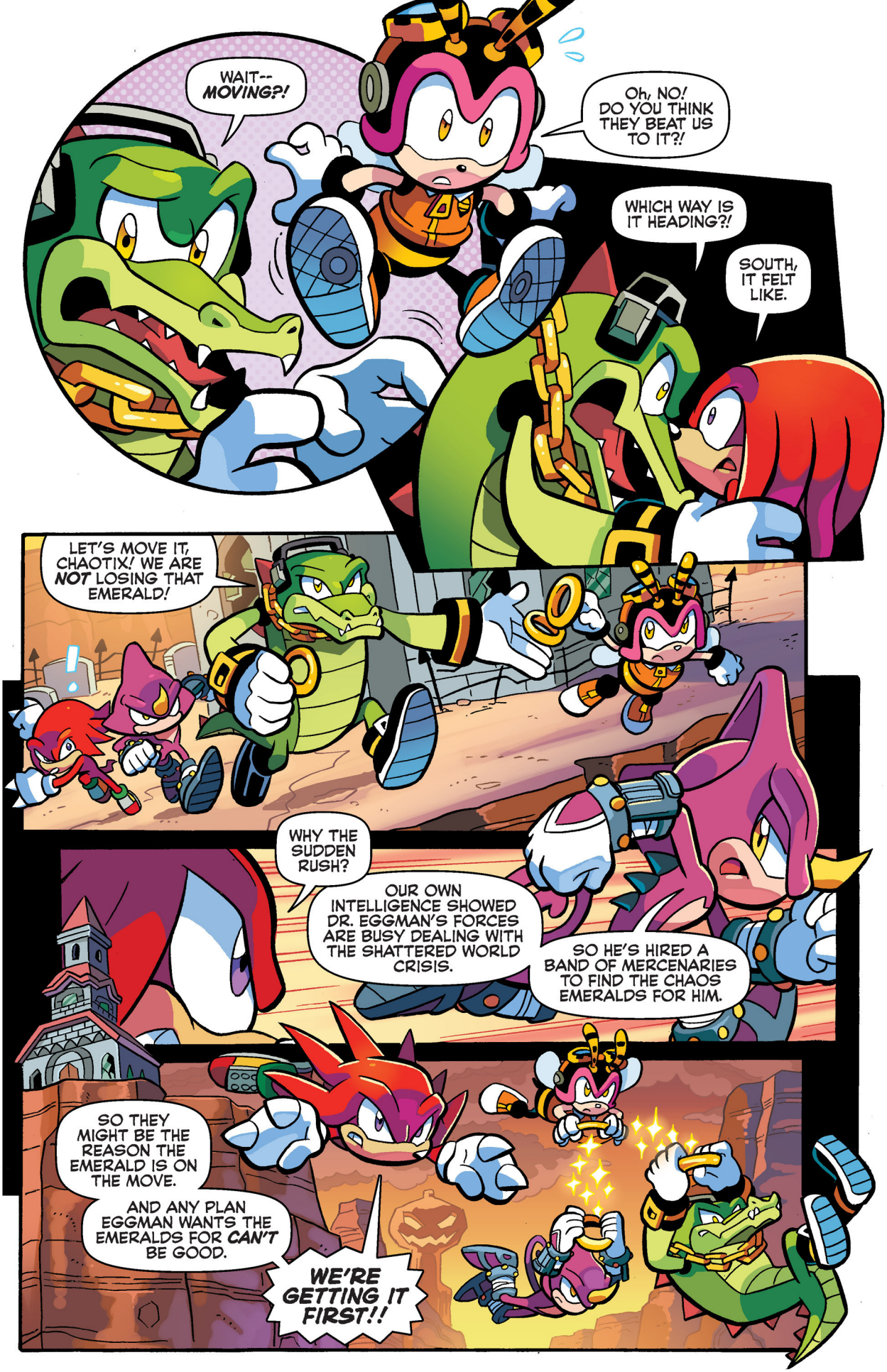
YOWL!!
ESPIO the CHAMELEON CHAOTIX NINJA
DA-DA-DA-DA! CHAOTIX TO THE RESCUE!
CHARMY BEE CHAOTIX FLYER
?
HOW'S THIS FOR A PERFECTLY TIMED--?
VECTOR the CROCODILE CHAOTIX LEAD DETECTIVE
SNARL!
HISSSS
WHOA! HEY!!


"RESCUE!" I WAS GONNA SAY "RESCUE!"
BOMPH
BOMPH
BOMPH
YEAH! WE DID IT!
YES. WE DEFEATED... WHATEVER THOSE THINGS WERE.
MONSTERS, OBVIOUSLY.


OF COURSE. HOW SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE OF YOU.
HEY THERE, VEC. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE THREW DOWN TOGETHER. THANKS FOR THE SAVE.
ALL PART OF BEING A GOOD DETECTIVE.
...FIGHTING CREEPY-CRAWLIES IS PART OF BEING A GOOD DETECTIVE?
"TO SERVE AND PROTECT," CHARMY.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE POLICE?
WAIT! ARE WE POLICE NOW? I WANT A DONUT! I-- MMPH!!
SO...WORLD SPLITS APART, MONSTERS ARE POPPING OUT OF NOWHERE, AND NOW YOU'RE OFF YOUR ISLAND. WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL THE WAY OUT TO PUMPKIN HILL?
I'M ON A MISSION.
IT MUST BE PRETTY IMPORTANT IF YOU LEFT THE MASTER EMERALD UNGUARDED.
IT IS IMPORTANT-- BUT WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT UNGUARDED?
WELL...WHO ELSE IS THERE? MIGHTY AND RAY ARE OFF ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE, AND WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THEM IN A WHILE. SO...
Ah...YOU GUYS HAVEN'T MET HER YET...

HER? Ooooh! KNUCKLES HAS A NEW BUDDY ON HIS FLYING PARADISE! YOU SLY 'KIDNA! IS SHE CUTE? Eh? Eh?
sigh SO. WHAT BRINGS YOU THREE OUT HERE? WE SEEM TO BUMP INTO EACH OTHER AT THE WORST TIMES.
WE WERE HIRED BY THE PRINCESS SALLY TO HELP TRACK DOWN THE CHAOS EMERALDS AND SAVE THE WORLD. THAT'S RIGHT! THE THE WORLD-FAMOUS FREEDOM FIGHTERS HIRED US TO PICK UP THEIR SLACK!
Pffft! BWA-HA-HA! YEAH, RIGHT! SALLY ASKED US TO HELP SAVE THE WORLD AND VECTOR BEGGED FOR A ROYAL HAND-OUT!
WE'RE STILL NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT!
AH HA HA! LIKE WHETHER OR NOT YOU GET MAYO ON YOUR REWARD SANDWICH? HAHAHA!

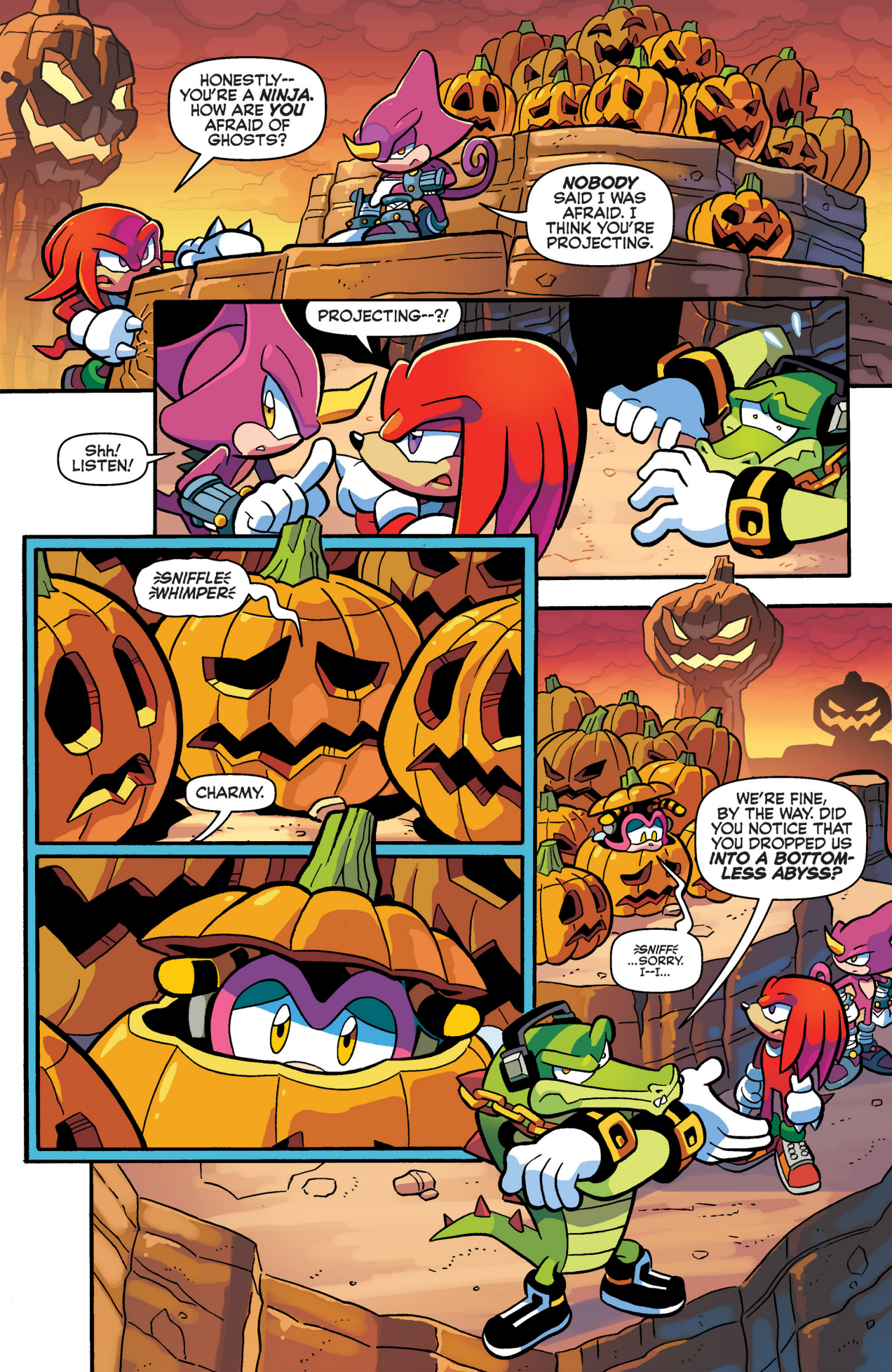
ANYWAY--YOU'RE A SEASONED TREASURE HUNTER, AND YOU'VE GOT MORE EXPERIENCE WITH THE CHAOS EMERALDS THAN THE THREE OF US COMBINED.
SINCE YOU'RE HERE, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TEAM-UP AGAIN AND HELP US LOOK?
...IF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SAY THE CHAOS EMERALDS ARE NEEDED TO SAVE THE WORLD, THEN THE EMERALDS MIGHT HAVE A CONNECTION TO THE SPIRIT I'M LOOKING FOR.
AND IT'D MAKE SENSE FOR A POWERFUL SPIRIT TO BE DRAWN TO THE EMERALDS' POWER...
SURE--I'LL JOIN THE HUNT. I'M ASSUMING YOU'VE TRACKED ONE HERE?
EXACTLY. THE PRINCESS SAID SHE HAD STOLEN EGGNET DATA THAT SHOWED A CHAOS EMERALD MIGHT BE IN THIS GENERAL AREA.
THEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SENSE ITS POWER. LET'S SEE...
YEAH... THERE IT IS! AND...IT SEEMS TO BE MOVING...

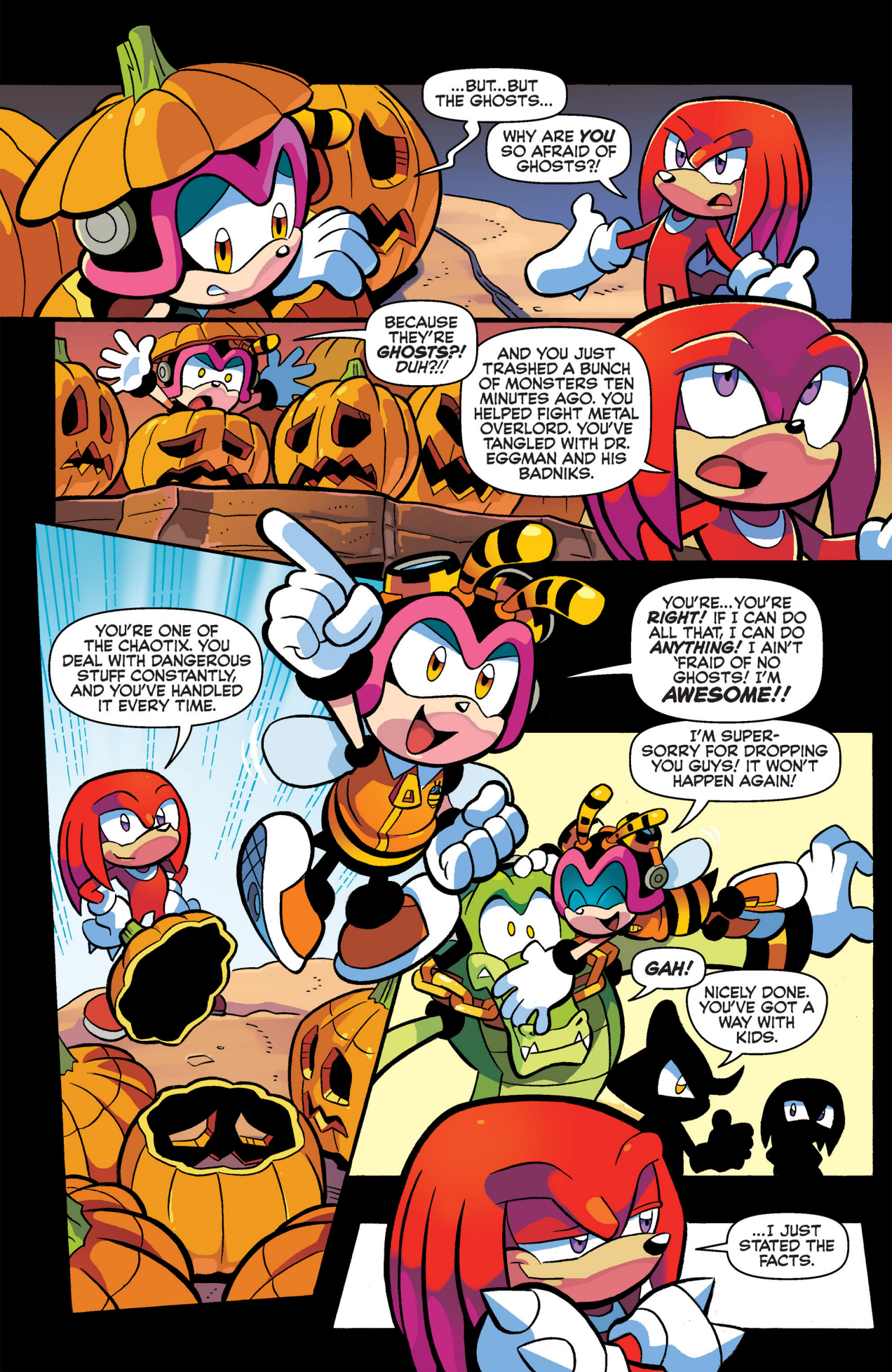

WAIT-- MOVING?!
Oh, NO! DO YOU THINK THEY BEAT US TO IT?!
WHICH WAY IS IT HEADING?!
SOUTH, IT FELT LIKE.
LET'S MOVE IT, CHAOTIX! WE ARE NOT LOSING THAT EMERALD!
!
WHY THE SUDDEN RUSH?
OUR OWN INTELLIGENCE SHOWED DR. EGGMAN'S FORCES ARE BUSY DEALING WITH THE SHATTERED WORLD CRISIS.
SO HE'S HIRED A BAND OF MERCENARIES TO FIND THE CHAOS EMERALDS FOR HIM.
SO THEY MIGHT BE THE REASON THE EMERALD IS ON THE MOVE.
AND ANY PLAN EGGMAN WANTS THE EMERALDS FOR CAN'T BE GOOD.
WE'RE GETTING IT FIRST!!

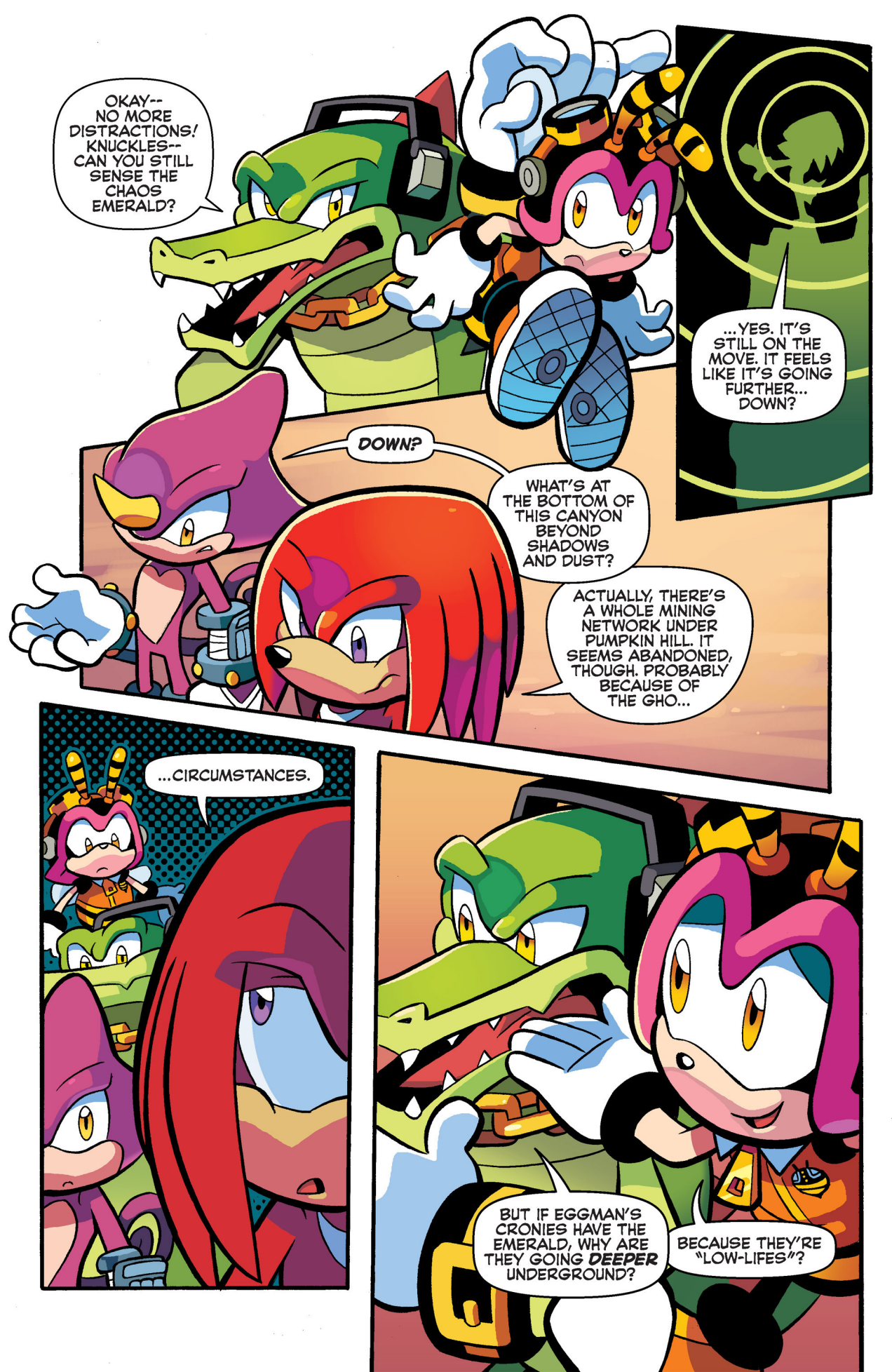
BRRR! I THOUGHT THAT GRAVEYARD WAS CREEPY, BUT THAT TRAIN IS GIVING ME THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES TOO!
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. THE GHOSTS MIGHT JUST IGNORE US.
Oh, HA-HA, KNUCKLES. TRYIN' TO SCARE ME WITH GHOST STORIES.
NO, I'M SERIOUS. THIS REGION IS *CRAWLING* WITH ANGRY SPIRITS.
SURE, THERE ARE GHOSTS IN THE RUINS OF THE SANDOPOLIS ZONE, TOO, BUT THE ONES HERE ARE--
AAAAAHH!! GHOSTS!!
GAH!

"LET'S USE THE SLING RINGS" YOU SAID! "USE THE TECHNOLOGY WE HAVE ON HAND" YOU SAID!
YOU'D PREFER HANGING FROM CHARMY'S FEET? TRUST OUR COMBINED WEIGHT TO A TEN KILOGRAM BEE?
FEET ARE MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN MAGIC-RING-SPARKLES!
CAN WE SAVE THE BICKERING FOR LATER?
WE NEED TO FIND CHARMY AND GET BACK TO FINDING THE EMERALD AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT'S STOPPING US FROM LEAVING HIM BEHIND?
THE FACT THAT WE'D BE ABANDONING A CHILD IN A DARK, INHOSPITABLE CANYON FULL OF GHOSTS, MONSTERS, AND MERCENARIES WHO ARE ON EGGMAN'S PAYROLL?
YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT SHARING MY REWARD SANDWICH WITH HIM, THAT'S FOR SURE.

AND THIS IS PARTLY YOUR FAULT, KNUX! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO START JOKING ABOUT GHOSTS?!
I WASN'T! YOU'VE SEEN GHOSTS, TOO.* WHY DO YOU THINK I'M MAKING THEM UP?
IT'S JUST... HERE? FOR REAL?
YES!
*SONIC HEROES--THE GAME
Oh, DON'T YOU TWO START! I SAID I'D HELP FIND THE EMERALD, NOT DO EVERYTHING MYSELF!
YEAH, BUT...
CLIMB!


HONESTLY-- YOU'RE A NINJA. HOW ARE YOU AFRAID OF GHOSTS?
NOBODY SAID I WAS AFRAID. I THINK YOU'RE PROJECTING.
PROJECTING--?!
Shh! LISTEN!
SNIFFLE WHIMPER
CHARMY.
WE'RE FINE, BY THE WAY. DID YOU NOTICE THAT YOU DROPPED US INTO A BOTTOMLESS ABYSS?
SNIFF ...SORRY. I--I...


...BUT...BUT THE GHOSTS...
WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF GHOSTS?!
BECAUSE THEY'RE GHOSTS?! DUH?!!
AND YOU JUST TRASHED A BUNCH OF MONSTERS TEN MINUTES AGO. YOU HELPED FIGHT METAL OVERLORD. YOU'VE TANGLED WITH DR. EGGMAN AND HIS BADNIKS.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE CHAOTIX. YOU DEAL WITH DANGEROUS STUFF CONSTANTLY, AND YOU'VE HANDLED IT EVERY TIME.
YOU'RE...YOU'RE RIGHT! IF I CAN DO ALL THAT, I CAN DO ANYTHING! I AIN'T 'FRAID OF NO GHOSTS! I'M AWESOME!!
I'M SUPER-SORRY FOR DROPPING YOU GUYS! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
GAH!
NICELY DONE. YOU'VE GOT A WAY WITH KIDS.
...I JUST STATED THE FACTS.


OKAY-- NO MORE DISTRACTIONS! KNUCKLES-- CAN YOU STILL SENSE THE CHAOS EMERALD?
...YES. IT'S STILL ON THE MOVE. IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING FURTHER... DOWN?
DOWN?
WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS CANYON BEYOND SHADOWS AND DUST?
ACTUALLY, THERE'S A WHOLE MINING NETWORK UNDER PUMPKIN HILL. IT SEEMS ABANDONED, THOUGH. PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE GHO...
...CIRCUMSTANCES.
BUT IF EGGMAN'S CRONIES HAVE THE EMERALD, WHY ARE THEY GOING DEEPER UNDERGROUND?
BECAUSE THEY'RE "LOW-LIFES"?

UGH! REALLY, CHARMY?
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
GET TO HIGH GROUND!
SKKOW
ANYONE SEE WHAT IT IS? EGGMAN? A BADNIK HORDE?
WORSE. OUR COMPETITION.

BARK the POLAR BEAR SILENT BRUISER
NACK the WEASEL FANGED SNIPER
BEAN the DYNAMITE DUCK MAD BOMBER
LOOKIE WHO IT IS! THE "MORONIX"! GUEST-STARRING "CHUCKLES"!
RUN ALONG NOW--BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS HURT!
The HOOLIGANS
DIRTY WORK FOR DIRT CHEAP
NEXT CHAOTIX™ vs. HOOLIGANS!
KNUCKLES GETS A STARTLING LEAD ON HIS QUEST! MORE ACTION! MORE SURPRISES!
MORE MONSTERS!
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC SUPER DIGEST, THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, and the GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!